

As a Californian, I listened last night to the hearing about localization and media consolidation -- I was riveted. It was broadcast on my local community radio station. I wanted to second the viewpoints put across so eloquently by so many. I remember when radio and television were different, and I could get true local coverage and many points of view. The monopolization of the airwaves by corporate owned media has completely left me out as a viewer, listener. It has led to the death of any interesting, informative media. The implications for democracy are truly frightening.

I was encouraged by the commission's spoken commitment to serve local communities. Just for the emergency broadcasting alone; the last 2 major blackouts we've had in sf, when I tuned in to my radio to get information, the only place I got it was on a college station! I was also horrified by the story of the Clear Channel DJ who broadcast "songs" urging statutory rape. These corporations are not going to be responsible to local communities. The fact that they were allowed to get so big in the first place is a sign that the system isn't working.

I urge you to be courageous and take the first steps to reclaim the airwaves for the people. Media in this country is in its death throes.

You can be an innovator and be remembered for leading this commission to take steps to remedy this situation. Or you can be remembered for caving in to corporate pressure. Please take a stand and do the right thing.

Thank You,  
Wendy Bardsley